

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01
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P R 191520Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1711
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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FOR SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN/ARA FROM AMBASSADOR
CRIMMINS

EO 11652 NA
TAGS OVIP, BR (TODMAN, TERENCE A)
SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S VISIT TO BRASILIA

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 3935 B) BRASILIA 3989

1. I CONSIDER ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S ALL TOO BRIEF VISIT
TO BRAZIL TO HAVE BEEN FROM EVERY
STANDPOINT--OFFICIAL CONTACTS, MEDIA ATTENTION, AND PERSONAL
IMPACT A MAJOR SUCCESS. SOME BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPERS, FOLLOWING
ERRONEOUS REPORTS OF HIS STATEMENTS ABOUT BRAZIL IN CARACAS,
HAD SPECULATED AT OUTSET OF VISIT THAT HE WOULD BE RECEIVED WITH
COOLNESS. BUT BECAUSE OF HIS EFFECTIVENESS IN SETTING RECORD
STRAIGHT ON CARACAS STATEMENTS ON HIS WARMTH, SKILL AND CANDO WITH
MEDIA DURING PRESS CONFERENCE AND THROUGHOUT VISIT, NEARLY ALL
MAJOR DAILIES CONCLUDED AT END OF VISIT THAT ITS OVERALL EFFECT
HAD BEEN POSITIVE AND THAT IT HAD SIGNIFICANTLY HELPED REMOVE
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SOME OF CHILL ON RELATIONSHIP REMAINING FROM NUCLEAR AND HUMAN
RIGHTS ISSUES EARLIER THIS YEAR. SOME OF PRESS' LEADING DIPLOMATIC
ANALYSTS ENDED UP BY CHIDING FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR AMATEURISHNESS
OR PETTINESS IN ITS STATEMENT MISINTERPRETING TODMAN'S CARACAS
STATEMENTS. PRESS INTEREST IN HIS EVERY MOVEMENT WAS INTENSE, AND
PHOTO AND TV COVERAGE WAS MASSIVE, MATCHING OR EXCEEDING THAT
NORMALLY GIVEN FOREIGN MINISTERS OR CHIEF'S OF STATE.

2. IF BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS HAD INTENDED TO TREAT TODMAN COOLLY DURING HIS PROGRAM, IT WAS CERTAINLY NOT APPARENT IN THE EVEN, AS THEY WERE ATTENTIVE, CORDIAL AND OUTGOING THROUGHOUT AND GAVE FULLY OF THEIR TIME. CHIEFS OF ITAMARATY'S DEPARTMENTS OF ECONOMIC, AMERICAN AND INTER-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS AFFAIRS EACH CONFERRED ONE HOUR WITH TODMAN, AND WOULD HAVE READILY GIVEN MORE TIME ON REQUEST. SECRETARY-GENRAL RECEIVED TODMAN FOR ONE HALF HOUR AND WAS HOST FOR LUNCH, AT WHICH HE OFFERED A VERY FRIENDLY TOAST. FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA HAD ORIGINALLY ALLOTTED ONE HOUR FOR HIS TALKS WITH TODMAN, BUT CONTINUED HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM FOR NEARLY TWO HOURS. WHILE SILVEIRA NORMALLY DOES NOT ATTEND DINNERS FOR VISITING OFFICIALS BELOW THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, HE REQUESTED IN THIS CASE THAT HE BE DESIGNATED GUEST OF HONR AT THE DINNER AT MY RESIDENCE SO THAT HE COULD ATTEND THE DINNER FOR TODMAN WITHOUT VIOLATING PRECEDENT.

3. SILVEIRA TOLD ME HE HAD FOUND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY WELL-PREPARED AND UNUSUALLY "SIMPATICO," COMMENTS ECHOED BY THE OTHER DEPARTMENT CHIEFS TODMAN HAD DEALT WITH. CARLOS DUARTE, CHIEF OF INTER-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS, STATED HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE EASE AND OPENNESS OF HIS CISCUSSIONS WITH THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND LATER TOLD THE PRESS THAT THEIR CONVERSATION HAD BEEN "CORDIAL," WITH "NO POINTS OF FRICTION IN THEIR POSITONS." AMBASSADOR ARAUJO, CHIEF OF THE AMERICAS DEPARTMENT, CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT NOT SEEING OFF TODMAN ON HIS 0630 MAY 14 FLIGHT (THE EMBASSY HAD SUGGESTED THAT BECAUSE OF THE HOUR, ONLY A PROTOCOL OFFICER COME TO THE AIRPORT) BECAUSE, AS HE COMMENTED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO THE AMBASSADOR AND TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE HAD FOUND HIS CONTACTS WITH TODMAN BOTH PROFITABLE AND PLEASANT.

4. WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT, WHO WAS NOT IN BRASILIA DURING VISIT, HAS ATTRIBUTED TOTALLY UNWARRANTED SIGNIFICANCE TO FACT THAT TODMAN WAS NOT RECEIVED BY GEISEL NOR MET AT AIRPORT BY FOREIGN MINISTER. IN BRAZIL, SUCH TREATMENT IS SCRUPULOUSLY RESERVED FOR VISITING FOREIGN MINISTERS AND CHIEFS OF STATES, AND EMBASSY NEITHER SOUGHT IT NOR EXPECTED IT. TREATMENT GIVEN TODMAN FULLY MATCHED THAT CONSISTENTLY GIVEN IN PAST TO US OFFICIALS OF HIS RANK, INCLUDING PREVIOUS ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF STATE.

5. IN SUM, I AM VERY PLEASED BY AND GRATEFUL FOR TODMAN'S VISIT. I CONSIDER IT TO HAVE BEEN A VERY IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE AND PERSONAL SUCCESS, WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE GRADUAL PROCESS OF RESUMING NORMAL DIALOGUE.
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